Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. Among the issues being discussed are the size of the expanded Council, the numbers of new permanent and non-permanent members, the procedure and criteria for selecting the new permanent members and related issues such as the veto.

(b) and (c) There is widespread recognition in the UN that developing countries must be properly represented in any expansion of permanent membership of the UN Security Council and that India is one of the leading countries qualified for representation in the permanent category in an expanded and restructured Security Council.

(d) Prime Minister, during his address to the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1999 stated that India had the ability and qualifications to discharge the responsibilities that come, with permanent membership and was prepared to do so. India has continued to take an active part in the discussions of UN Security Council restructuring, including those which took place in November, 1998 at the UN General Assembly. India is also engaged in deliberations on the subject in the Open Ended Working Group which was convened in February, 1999.

Reinstatement of Super 301

1756. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has decided to reinstate Super 301 as a part of its global trade strategy;

(b) if so, the details and its impact on India's trade?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A press release was issued on January 26, 1996 by the Office of the US Trade Representative announcing US President Clinton's decision to reinstate Super 301 and Title VII Executive Order.

(b) Super-301 authority—which expired in 1997—enables the US Trade Representative (USTR) to identify the trade practices which the US considers as constituting "Unfair trade".

USTR will report the results of its 1999 Super-301 review to US Congress at the end of April 1999. There is no immediate impact of the revival of this, authority on India's trade.

India regards all such unilateral measures as counter-productive and unjustified. Issues relating to international trading system should be discussed in the multilateral organisations set up for the purpose.

Economic Restrictions Imposed by US

1757. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item captioned "India protests, US is clear, loans our bargaining chip" published in "The Indian Express" dated 28th Jan. 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Indian Express of 27th January, 1999 in the news item captioned "India protests, US is clear. Loans our bargaining chip" reported that US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inder-furth stated at a briefing "Our ultimate aim is to remove all sanctions.... how quickly, depends on the progress we make".

(c) Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear. Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however will not negotiate security issues on this